

1. Describe how humans change the ecosystems they live in.

Answer: Humans tend to change ecosystems they live in. For example, most of southern Ontario used to be forested land. When European settlers arrived, they cut down most of the forest to clear land for farms and towns. The wood was used for building materials and firewood. Today southern Ontario is mostly made up of urban areas and farmland. Only a small amount of forest remains.

2. What are the benefits and drawbacks of using fertilizers?

Answer: The drawbacks of using fertilizer is for food production. For example, farmers often use fertilizers to promote plant growth. Many farmers also use pesticides to stop insects and other pests from eating the plants they grow. The drawbacks are that it pollutes the soil and water. Also, pesticide use harms other organisms in the ecosystem. For example using pesticides to kill pest insects removes a food source for birds that feed on these insects.

3. What are the benefits and drawbacks of using pesticides?

Answer: Also, pesticide use harms other organisms in the ecosystem. For example, using pesticides to kill "pest" insects removes a food source for birds that feed on these insects. This causes bird populations to decrease. This, in turn, affects organisms that feed on the birds.

4. Mining has costs and benefits. Give examples of both the costs (disadvantages) and benefits (advantages) of mining.

Answer: Mine tailings contain toxic substances that can damage ecosystems. Tailings left out in the open after mining can release toxic chemicals into the surrounding soil. Over time, rain will carry these substances into nearby lakes, rivers, and oceans. This has a negative impact on the organisms living in those ecosystems.